



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina State Board of Nursing

110 Centerview Dr. • Columbia • SC • 29210

P.O. Box 12367 • Columbia • SC 29211-2367

Phone: 803-896-4550 • NURSEBOARD@LLR.SC.GOV • Fax: 803-896-4515

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/>



MISSION OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

The mission of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina is the protection of public health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing.

This mission is accomplished by assuring safe initial practice as well as continuing competency in the practice of nursing and by promoting nursing excellence in the areas of education and practice. The Board licenses qualified individuals as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses. Complaints against nurses are investigated and disciplinary action taken when necessary. Schools of nursing are surveyed and approved to ensure quality education for future nurses.

BOARD VACANCIES

There are currently two vacancies on the South Carolina State Board of Nursing. Board members serve terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. Board members must be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Vacancies must be filled for the unexpired portion of a term by appointment of the Governor.

Pursuant to Section 40-33-10(A) of the Nurse Practice Act, when appointing members to the Board of Nursing, the Governor will give consideration to include a diverse representation of principal areas of nursing, but not limited to hospital, acute care, advanced practice, community health, and nursing education. Registered nurse and licensed practical nurse members must be licensed in South Carolina, be employed in nursing, have at least three years of practice in their respective professions immediately preceding their appointment, and reside in the district they represent. Lay members represent the public at large as consumers of nursing services and may not be licensed or employed as a health care provider. No Board member may serve as an officer of a professional health-related state association.

There is one vacancy for a Licensed Practical Nurse representative from the state at large and one vacancy for a public member from the state at large. An individual, group or association may nominate qualified persons and submit written requests to the Governor's Office for consideration and appointment to the State Board of Nursing. If you or someone you know is interested in the positions on the Board of Nursing, a letter of request, along with a resume or curriculum vitae, should be submitted to Boards and Commissions, Office of the Governor, Post Office Box 11829, Columbia, SC 29211-1829

REMINDER – IMPORTANT MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

S. C. CODE ANN. SECTION 63-7-310. Persons required to report.

(A) A physician, **nurse**, dentist, optometrist, medical examiner, or coroner, or an employee of a county medical examiner's or coroner's office, or any other medical, emergency medical services, mental health, or allied health professional, member of the clergy including a Christian Science Practitioner or religious healer, school teacher, counselor, principal, assistant principal, school attendance officer, social or public assistance worker, substance abuse treatment staff, or childcare worker in a childcare center or foster care facility, foster parent, police or law enforcement officer, juvenile justice worker, undertaker, funeral home director or employee of a funeral home, persons responsible for processing films, computer technician, judge, or a volunteer non-attorney guardian ad litem serving on behalf of the South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program or on behalf of Richland County CASA **must** report in accordance with this section when in the person's professional capacity the person has received information which gives the person reason to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected as defined in Section 63-7-20.

(B) If a person required to report pursuant to subsection (A) has received information in the person's professional capacity which gives the person reason to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by acts or omissions that would be child abuse or neglect if committed by a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, but the reporter believes

that the act or omission was committed by a person other than the parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, the reporter **must** make a report to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(C) Except as provided in subsection (A), a person, including, but not limited to, a volunteer non-attorney guardian ad litem serving on behalf of the South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program or on behalf of Richland County CASA, who has reason to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse and neglect may report, and is encouraged to report, in accordance with this section.

(D) Reports of child abuse or neglect may be made orally by telephone or otherwise to the county department of social services or to a law enforcement agency in the county where the child resides or is found.

NEW CE TECHNOLOGY ON THE HORIZON

The South Carolina Board of Nursing has chosen CE Broker to implement an efficient online system that will bring simplification and automation for South Carolina nurses and their continuing competency (CC).

With the new service, South Carolina nurses can choose from a variety of account options that best suit their needs, ranging from a **free basic account** to a comprehensive concierge service that includes their own account manager. Nurses will only need to verify their name and license number to get started managing CC. In addition, a support center will be available to nurses for any questions related to CC via phone, email, or live chat.

Nurses will be able to quickly assess their CC compliance status, search for approved courses, and review course history with an easy-to-use interface. If an educational provider has not reported a CE course already, nurses can record and upload through guided workflows that ensure accurate data collection. Course completions and documentation recorded in the system are stored indefinitely, so nurses will not need to worry about keeping their own physical copies or presenting them for audit.

The system offers both mobile and web applications to help nurses quickly and efficiently manage and report their CC progress. The free iPhone and Android apps provide powerful, on-the-go tools that will help nurses to stay on track, even when away from their computers.

The Board will notify nurses when the system is ready for use.

An Innovative Nurse Licensure Notification System Service (www.nursys.com)

Typically, when employers want to know if a nurse's license is about to expire, they have to look it up one nurse at a time. When it comes to learning about discipline status, employers must seek out this information on their own as well.

Not anymore.

With NCSBN's [Nursys e-Notify® system](http://www.nursys.com), institutions that employ nurses or maintain a registry of nurses, now have the ability to receive automatic licensure, discipline and publicly available notifications quickly, easily, securely and **free of charge**. Nursys e-Notify is an innovative nurse licensure notification system that automatically provides institutions licensure and publicly available discipline data as it is entered into Nursys by boards of nursing (BONs). Institutions don't have to proactively seek licensure or discipline information about their nurses because that information will be sent to them automatically.

The e-Notify system alerts subscribers when modifications are made to a nurse's record, including changes to:

- License status;
- License expirations;
- License renewal; and
- Public disciplinary action/resolutions and alerts/notifications.

For example, if a nurse's license is about to expire, the system will send a notification to the institution about the expiration date. If a nurse was disciplined by a BON, his/her institution will immediately learn about the disciplinary action, including access to available documents.

Understanding Nursys®

Nursys is the only national database for licensure verification, discipline for registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Nursys data is pushed directly from participating BONs' database (for participating jurisdictions visit nursys.com). Nursys is live and dynamic, and all updates to the system are reflected immediately.

Through a written agreement, participating BONs have designated Nursys as a primary source equivalent database. NCSBN posts licensure and discipline information in Nursys as it is submitted by individual BONs.

Nursys® Benefits Nurses Too!

Nurses can self-enroll for free and take advantage of a quick, convenient and free way to keep up-to-date with their professional licenses. They can receive license expiration reminders, licensure status updates and track license verifications for endorsement.

Learn more about Nursys® e-Notify by viewing an [introductory video](#) or visiting the [Nursys website](#). For questions, contact nursysenotify@ncsbn.org.

BOARD APPROVES NEW POSITION STATEMENT

At its July 28-29, 2016 meeting, the Board of Nursing approved a new Position Statement as proposed and recommended by the Nursing Practice and Standards Committee. Position Statements can be found on the Board's website at <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/index.asp?file=positionstatements.htm>

POSITION STATEMENT

FORMULATED: July 2016

REGISTERED NURSES PERFORMING PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina recognizes that confusion exists regarding the terms **physical assessment**, **physical examination** and **nursing assessment**. The Board seeks to clarify the boundaries and limitations of nursing practice regarding these terms within our state. While there are many similar and shared components or interventions with each of these activities, there are distinct differences of intent when defined.

Physical examination or assessment is an evaluation of the body and its functions using inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation.

A complete health assessment includes gathering information about a person's medical history and lifestyle, doing lab tests and screening for disease (<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/physical+examination>). **Physical examination or physical assessment** is one component of a complete health assessment that represents a synthesis of information obtained in a physical examination.

A nursing assessment is the identification by a registered nurse of the needs, preferences, and abilities of a patient. Nursing assessment includes an interview with and observation of a patient by the nurse and considers the symptoms and signs of the condition, the patient's verbal and nonverbal communication, the patient's medical and social history, and any other information available. Among the physical aspects assessed are vital signs, skin color and condition, motor and sensory nerve function, nutrition, rest, sleep, activity, elimination, and consciousness. Among the social and emotional factors included in assessment are religion, occupation, attitude toward hospital and health care, mood, emotional tone, and family ties and responsibilities. **Assessment is extremely important because it provides the scientific basis for a complete nursing care plan.** (Mosby's Medical Dictionary, 9th edition. © 2009, Elsevier)

The Nurse Practice Act for the South Carolina provides clear boundaries for nursing practice:

“(48) Practice of registered nursing means the performance of health care acts in the nursing process that

involve assessment, analysis, intervention, and evaluation. This practice requires specialized independent judgment and skill and is based on knowledge and application of the principles of biophysical and social sciences. The practice of registered nursing includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) assessing the health status of persons and groups;
- (b) analyzing the health status of persons and groups;
- (c) establishing outcomes to meet identified health care needs of persons and groups;
- (d) prescribing nursing interventions to achieve outcomes;
- (e) implementing nursing interventions to achieve outcomes”

Each of the above elements are based on **nursing interventions** and do not include formulating any type of medical diagnosis or determining medical clearance based on a state of wellness.

Therefore the Board, based on the foundation of nursing education and the legal limitations of nursing practice in our state, recognizes that it is NOT within the scope of the registered nurse (RN) to perform a medical physical examination for the purpose of clearance for a designated activity. While it is within the scope of a registered nurse to assess and obtain data for components of a physical examination, it is NOT within the scope of the registered nurse to make a medical diagnosis, identify medical problems, develop medical treatment plans, or declare someone “free” of illness.

THE RN/ LPN NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (NLC)

Unlocking Access to Nursing Care Across the Nation

South Carolina implemented the RN/ LPN Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) on February 1, 2006. As a member of the NLC, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in South Carolina with permanent residency and a license in good standing are eligible for a multistate license that permits them to provide care across state borders in other states that belong to the NLC.

The NLC increases access to care for millions of patients nationally. It facilitates telehealth nursing, nursing care in the event of a disaster, online nursing education and health care travel among many other types of nursing care.

There are 25 member states in the NLC. The maximum benefit to belonging to the NLC will occur when all states become members. To date, many states have not joined because there is not a requirement for criminal background checks for states participating in the NLC.

Solution: The enhanced NLC (eNLC)

In 2015, State Boards of Nursing came together to discuss how more states could join the NLC. They agreed that all states in the NLC would adopt the same requirements for a nursing license. These requirements were put into an updated version of the NLC, what is known as, “The enhanced NLC (eNLC)”.

- A Modern Nurse Licensure Solution for the 21st Century
The eNLC will further increase access to health care by allowing more states to join, continue to protect patient safety and reduce costs while supporting state-of-the-art health care delivery – for today and in the future
- The eNLC also changes the name of the “Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators” to the “Commission” and allows this body to develop administrative and procedural rules to carry out the function of the NLC. The Commission cannot change our state’s Nurse Practice Act nor change any scope of practice.
- The eNLC grandfathers nurses who presently hold active, unencumbered multistate licenses.
- The eNLC still allows for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to have one multistate license in their home state, with the privilege to practice in other eNLC states, however, it has been updated with uniform licensure requirements that all eNLC states will adopt.

- **Uniform Licensure Requirements**

The eNLC contains uniform licensure requirements that include:

1. Graduation from a nursing education program approved by the State Board of Nursing.
2. Successful passage of the NCLEX licensure exam, upon initial licensure.
3. Criminal Background Checks for all applicants applying for initial licensure.
4. A valid U.S. Social Security number.
5. Applicant for licensure has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony offense (misdemeanors are handled by each state on a case by case basis).
6. Applicant is not currently enrolled in an alternative program.
7. Applicant has met all other home state requirements for licensure.

Adoption of the enhanced NLC (eNLC)

As of this publication, the eNLC has been adopted by the following states: Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming.

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina has introduced legislation to adopt the eNLC in the 2017 Legislative Session.

The effective date of the eNLC is determined by either 26 states joining the eNLC or by the date December 31, 2018.

Important information to remember as South Carolina moves forward with the eNLC:

1. South Carolina is currently one of 25 states in the NLC and has been participating since 2006
2. The eNLC is an updated version of the current NLC with the goal to have all 50 states participating.

APRN CERTIFICATION, RE-CERTIFICATION OR RENEWAL

You must notify the Board of your certification, recertification or renewal.

- Are you licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)?
- Have you renewed your certification?
- Did you know the Board does not automatically receive notification you have renewed your certification?
- Did you know it is the licensee's responsibility to provide the Board with a copy of his or her current certification/recertification?

If you have recently become certified, recertified, or renewed your certification, mail a copy of your current certification card to: LLR-Board of Nursing, Attn: Advanced Practice Licensure, P. O. Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211. You may also scan your document and email to NurseBoard@llr.sc.gov or send your document by fax to 803-896-4515.

REPORTING MISCONDUCT AND VIOLATIONS OF THE NURSE PRACTICE ACT

It has come to the attention of the SC Board of Nursing that there is reluctance on the part of some employers to report violations of the Nurse Practice Act by their employees.

Section 40-33-111(A) of the Nurse Practice Act states that:

(A) An employer, including an agency, or supervisor of nurses, shall report any instances of the misconduct or the incapacities described in Section 40-33-110 to the State Board of Nursing not more than fifteen business days, excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, from the discovery of the misconduct or incapacity. A nurse supervisor who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity may be subject to disciplinary action and civil sanctions as provided for in Section 40-33-120. An employer who is not licensed by the board and who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity shall pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars per violation upon notice of the board.

The Board believes it is important to note there are possible sanctions for employers who fail to report misconduct or incapacities in a timely manner to the Board. It is important for the safety of the citizens of South Carolina that nurses and employers of nurses adhere to the SC Nurse Practice Act.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The Nomination Form for vacancies on the Advanced Practice Committee, Nursing Practice and Standards Committee and the Advisory Committee on Nursing Education is available on the Board's website at www.llr.sc.gov/pol/nursing under Applications/Forms.

Nomination forms submitted by interested nurses will be submitted to the Board for review and official action regarding appointment/ reappointment. Committee members' perspectives and participation are valued and necessary to conduct business and for continuity, so regular meeting attendance is very important. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on a Board committee, please submit a completed nomination form, along with a current curriculum vitae, to Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov.

Committee members are appointed for an initial term of two years with the possibility of reappointment by the Board for three years to provide for staggering of terms. Individuals interested in serving must currently hold an unencumbered, active license in South Carolina, hold credentials, be practicing in the area they represent and have education/ experience appropriate/ applicable to the position they are seeking.

A list of meeting dates for this year is located in this newsletter.

Advanced Practice Committee (APC)

The Advanced Practice Committee (APC) is a standing, Board-appointed committee established to review current advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) trends and practice. APC advises the Board and nursing community on the safe and competent practice of APRNs. APC meets quarterly on the first Friday in February, May, August, and November of each year. There currently is *one* position open for a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Representative.

Nursing Practice and Standards Committee (NPSC)

The Nursing Practice and Standards Committee (NPSC) assists the Board of Nursing with issues affecting nursing practice in the state. The NPSC is charged with developing and revising advisory opinions and position statements. The NPSC meets quarterly on the second Thursday in January, April, July and October each year. There are currently positions open for a Registered Nurse Long Term Care Gerontology Representative, a Registered Nurse School Nurse Representative and an LPN Representative.

Advisory Committee on Nursing Education (ACONE)

The Advisory Committee on Nursing Education (ACONE) assists the Board with planning for nursing education. The ACONE meets on the third Tuesday in February, April, June, and October. It meets on the last Tuesday in August and first Tuesday in December each year. There are currently *no* open positions on this committee.

Expert Case Reviewers Needed

Expert Case Reviewers assist with facilitating the complete review of complaint cases before the South Carolina State Board of Nursing. The requirements and qualifications for serving are listed on the nomination form available at <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/pdf/PANEL%20%20%20DRC%20NOMINATION%20FORM.pdf>

HOW CAN I CHECK A LICENSE?

To check a nursing license, you may utilize one or all of the following options:

1. **SC Licensee Lookup** - Go to <https://verify.llronline.com/LicLookup/Nurse/Nurse.aspx?div=17>. As you enter information, it is recommended that you enter a portion of the nurse's name only. You will be provided with the nurse's name, city and state, license number, license type, date issued/expires, license status, and whether the license is multi-state or single-state.
2. **Nursys QuickConfirm** - Go to <https://www.nursys.com/> click on QuickConfirm and follow the Instructions. You will be provided with the nurse's name, state of licensure, license type and number, license status, license expiration date and discipline status. The following states participate in QuickConfirm: AK, AZ, AR, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, ID, IN, IA, KY, LA-RN, ME, MD, MA, MN, MS, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OH, OR, RI, **SC**, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, US Virgin Islands, VA, WV-PN, WI, and WY. Go to NCSBN.org for updates as

states are added.

3. Other States - Most states have licensee lookup/licensure verification on their websites. Links to Boards of nursing can be found at www.ncsbn.org.

You may check for discipline against a South Carolina nursing license on the Board's website under Board Orders at www.llr.sc.gov/pol/nursing/

CHANGING YOUR NAME ON YOUR NURSING LICENSE

If you have had a legal name change, submit your written request, along with a copy of the legal document(s) (copy of marriage certificate, divorce decree, court order, etc.), to LLR – Board of Nursing, P O Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211 or you can send the request and documents by fax to 803-896-4515 to the attention of Board of Nursing. Please indicate in your request whether you will use your middle name or maiden name for your middle initial or if you wish to hyphenate your name. For example, if Jane Ann Doe marries John Smith will she use Jane Ann Smith? Or Jane Doe Smith? Or Jane Ann Doe Smith? Or Jane Ann Doe-Smith? Your request will be processed within five business days of receipt in Board offices and will be reflected on Licensee Lookup within three to five business days after the change is made.

You may verify that your name change request has been processed on Licensee Lookup on the Board's website (llr.sc.gov/pol/nursing/). When utilizing Licensee Lookup, you do not have to enter complete names. For example, "J" and "Smith" will search for records with a last name of "Smith" and a first name beginning with "J." Refer to Section 40-33-36(B) of the Nurse Practice Act regarding statutory requirements for your name on your license. You may view the Nurse Practice Act – Chapter 33 located under Law/Policies on the Board's website.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Section 40-33-38(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Nurse Practice Act) requires that *all* licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of *any* address change. So you do not miss important time-sensitive information from the Board, such as your courtesy renewal notice, audit notice or other important licensure information, be sure to notify the Board immediately whenever you change your address. Failure to notify the Board of an address change may result in discipline. You may change your address online utilizing the address change form under Online Services found on the Board's website.

Note: *Changing your address with the South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) **does not** change your address on your licensing records with the South Carolina State Board of Nursing.*

It is important to notify the board of changes to your e-mail address as well. The Board communicates information to its licensees through e-mail as well as through the postal service. A current e-mail also facilitates access to the Board of Nursing website services.

BOARD MEMBERS

Samuel H. McNutt, RN, CRNA, MHSA, Congressional District 5 -- President

W. Kay Swisher, RN, MSN, Congressional District 3 – Vice President

Karen R. Hazzard MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Congressional District 7 -- Secretary

Jaqueline L. Baer, APRN, MSN, FNP-BC, Congressional District 1

Eric J. Sellers, RN, Congressional District 2

Sonya K. Ehrhardt, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ, Congressional District 6

Jan R. Burdette, LPN, At-Large

Neil B. Lipsitz, Public Member

Vacant, (1) Licensed Practical Nurse At-Large

Vacant, (1) Lay Member At-Large

Vacancies: [See Section 40-33-10(A) of the Nurse Practice Act for prerequisites and requirements]

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Main Telephone Line

(803) 896-4550

Fax Line

(803) 896-4515

General Email

NurseBoard@llr.sc.gov

Website

llr.sc.gov/pol/nursing/

The Board of Nursing is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29210. Directions to the office can be found on the website – lr.sc.gov - at the bottom of the page. The Board's mailing address is LLR - Office of Board Services - SC Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367.

Normal agency business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offices are closed for holidays designated by the state.

BOARD OF NURSING ADMINISTRATION

Carol A. Moody, RN, MAS, NEA-BC -- Administrator

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Main Telephone Line

(803) 896-4470

VISIT THE BOARD WEBSITE OFTEN

The Board recommends all nurses licensed by or working in South Carolina visit its website (lr.sc.gov/pol/nursing/) *at least* monthly for up-to-date information on nursing licensure in South Carolina. The Board of Nursing Website contains the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 33-Laws Governing Nursing in South Carolina), Regulations (Chapter 91), Compact Information, Advisory Opinions, Position Statements, Licensure Applications, Continued Competency Requirements/ Criteria, Application Status, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other helpful information. The Nurse Practice Act, Regulations, Advisory Opinions and Position Statements are located under Laws/Policies. The Competency Requirement and Competency Requirement Criteria, which includes continuing education contact hours, are located under Licensure. You will also find the Board Meeting calendar, agendas, minutes and Board Member names and the area they represent.

The Board hopes you will find this information useful in your nursing practice.

Board of Nursing Meeting Calendar for 2017

Board and Committee meeting agendas are posted on the Board's website at least 24 hours prior to meeting.

Board of Nursing Meeting

May 18-19, 2017
July 27-28, 2017
September 28-29, 2017
November 16-17, 2017

Advanced Practice Committee

May 5, 2017
August 4, 2017
November 3, 2017

Advisory Committee on Nursing Education

April 18, 2017
June 20, 2017
August 29, 2017
October 17, 2017
December 5, 2017

Nursing Practice & Standards Committee

April 13, 2017
July 13, 2017
October 12, 2017

Designated 2017 State Holidays

Confederate Memorial Day
National Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans Day

May 10, 2017
May 29, 2017
July 4, 2017
September 4, 2017
November 10, 2017

Thanksgiving Day	November 23, 2017
Day after Thanksgiving	November 24, 2017
Christmas Eve	December 22, 2017
Christmas Day	December 25, 2017
Day after Christmas (Expected Observance)	December 26, 2017